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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/760,183	01/21/2004	Kia Silverbrook	MPA23US	3254
24011	7590	11/29/2005	EXAMINER	
SILVERBROOK RESEARCH PTY LTD 393 DARLING STREET BALMAIN, NSW 2041 AUSTRALIA			LEBRON, JANNELLE M	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2861	

DATE MAILED: 11/29/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

AK

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/760,183	SILVERBROOK ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Jannelle M. Lebron	2861	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 January 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 21 January 2004 is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☒ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 11/03/2004.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Drawings

1. The drawings are objected to because Figure 17C is referenced in the specification on page 13 line 16, page 14 line 34, page 17 line 21, page 18 line 11, page 22 line 15, and possibly others. This was already brought to the applicant in the Pre-Exam Formalities Notice mailed 04/26/2004. Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as "amended." If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining figures. Each drawing sheet submitted after the filing date of an application must be labeled in the top margin as either "Replacement Sheet" or "New Sheet" pursuant to 37 CFR 1.121(d). If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

2. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

3. Claims 1-5 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Silverbrook et al. (US Patent 6,439,908).

4. Regarding claim 1, Silverbrook et al. discloses a printhead assembly (10 in figure 2) , comprising:

at least one printhead module (12 in figure 2) comprising at least two printhead integrated circuits (18 in figure 2), each of which has nozzles (42 in figure 7) formed therein for delivering printing fluid onto the surface of print media, a support member (28 in figure 8, column 2, lines 17-19) supporting and carrying the printing fluid for the at least two printhead integrated circuits, and an electrical connector (column 3, lines 64-65; column 4, lines 6-9) for connecting electrical signals to the at least two printhead integrated circuits;

drive electronics incorporating at least one controller for controlling the printing operation of at least one of the at least two printhead integrated circuits (column 3, lines 59-65);

a plurality of longitudinally extending electrical conductors (58 and 60 in figure 14) arranged to provide power from a power supply to the drive electronics and the at least two printhead integrated circuits (column 3, lines 57-65); and

a loading plate for loading conductor portions of the electrical connector against respective ones of the plurality of electrical conductors (column 4, lines 6-14).

5. Regarding claim 2, Silverbrook et al. discloses a printhead assembly further comprising a casing (14 in figure 2) in which the at least one printhead module, the drive electronics, the plurality of electrical conductors and the loading plate are removably mounted.

6. Regarding claim 3, Silverbrook et al. discloses a printhead assembly wherein the loading plate includes a non-conductive portion which urges the electrical connector against the plurality of electrical conductors (column 4, lines 24-28).

7. Regarding claim 4, Silverbrook et al. discloses a printhead assembly wherein the non-conductive portion is formed of a resilient material (column 4, lines 24-28).

8. Regarding claim 5, Silverbrook et al. discloses a printhead assembly wherein:
the at least one printhead module (12 in figure 2) comprising a unitary arrangement of a support member, at least two printhead integrated circuits 18 in figure 8), each of which has nozzles (42 in figure 7) formed therein for delivering printing fluid onto the surface of print media, at least one fluid distribution member (30 in figure 8) mounting the at least two printhead integrated circuits to the support member, and an electrical connector (column 3, lines 59-65) for connecting electrical signals to the at least two printhead integrated circuits; and

the support member (28 in figure 8) has at least one longitudinally extending channel (72 in figure 8) for carrying the printing fluid for the printhead integrated circuits and includes a plurality of apertures (72 in figure 8) extending through a wall of the

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support member arranged so as to direct the printing fluid from the at least one channel to associated nozzles in both, or if more than two, all of the printhead integrated circuits by way of respective ones of the fluid distribution members (column 4, lines 41-44).

Double Patenting

9. The nonstatutory double patenting rejection is based on a judicially created doctrine grounded in public policy (a policy reflected in the statute) so as to prevent the unjustified or improper timewise extension of the “right to exclude” granted by a patent and to prevent possible harassment by multiple assignees. A nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting rejection is appropriate where the conflicting claims are not identical, but at least one examined application claim is not patentably distinct from the reference claim(s) because the examined application claim is either anticipated by, or would have been obvious over, the reference claim(s). See, e.g., *In re Berg*, 140 F.3d 1428, 46 USPQ2d 1226 (Fed. Cir. 1998); *In re Goodman*, 11 F.3d 1046, 29 USPQ2d 2010 (Fed. Cir. 1993); *In re Longi*, 759 F.2d 887, 225 USPQ 645 (Fed. Cir. 1985); *In re Van Ornum*, 686 F.2d 937, 214 USPQ 761 (CCPA 1982); *In re Vogel*, 422 F.2d 438, 164 USPQ 619 (CCPA 1970); and *In re Thorington*, 418 F.2d 528, 163 USPQ 644 (CCPA 1969).

A timely filed terminal disclaimer in compliance with 37 CFR 1.321(c) or 1.321(d) may be used to overcome an actual or provisional rejection based on a nonstatutory double patenting ground provided the conflicting application or patent either is shown to be commonly owned with this application, or claims an invention made as a result of activities undertaken within the scope of a joint research agreement.

Effective January 1, 1994, a registered attorney or agent of record may sign a terminal disclaimer. A terminal disclaimer signed by the assignee must fully comply with 37 CFR 3.73(b).

10. Claims 1-4 are provisionally rejected on the ground of nonstatutory obviousness-type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-6 of copending Application No. 10/760,262. Although the conflicting claims are not identical, they are not patentably distinct from each other because the reference application recites:

11. A printhead assembly, comprising:

at least one printhead module comprising at least two printhead integrated circuits each of which has nozzles formed therein for delivering printing fluid onto the surface of print media, a support member supporting and carrying the printing fluid for the at least two printhead integrated circuits, and an electrical connector for connecting electrical signals to the at least two printhead integrated circuits (lines 1-5, claim 1);

drive electronics incorporating at least one controller for controlling the printing operation of at least one of the at least two printhead integrated circuits (lines 1-3, claim 6);

a plurality of longitudinally extending electrical arranged to provide power from a power supply to the drive electronics and the at least two printhead integrated circuits (lines 6-7, claim 1); and

a loading plate for loading conductor portions of the electrical connector against respective ones of the plurality of electrical conductors (claim 2).

12. A printhead assembly further comprising a casing (14 in figure 2) in which the at least one printhead module, the drive electronics, the plurality of electrical conductors and the loading plate are removably mounted (lines 8-11 of claim 1, claim 3, and lines

3-4 of claim 6 – The fact that the present application does not recite the “support frame” and “the at least one mounting element” does not obviate the issue of double patenting).

13. A printhead assembly wherein the loading plate includes a non-conductive portion which urges the electrical connector against the plurality of electrical conductors (claim 4).

14. A printhead assembly wherein the non-conductive portion is formed of a resilient material (claim 5).

15. This is a provisional obviousness-type double patenting rejection because the conflicting claims have not in fact been patented.


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jannelle M. Lebron whose telephone number is (571) 272-2729. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday 8:30am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David L. Talbott can be reached on (571) 272-1934. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

JML


LAMSON NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER
11/28/03